

hours, while eliminating the current accommodation for women with young children, the bill will vastly increase the need for child care, without providing resources to the states to pay for it. Beyond this, the fact that the legislation limits opportunities for education and vocational training will keep many individuals in dead-end, low-paying jobs, with limited possibility to create better opportunities for their families.

Creating bipartisan compromise on welfare reform is never easy. It took us three tries to find a bill that worked in 1996. However, in this time of economic hardship for our nation, and our states in particular, it is even more essential that the Congress works in a bipartisan fashion to forge compromise on a welfare reform reauthorization that works. Welfare reform succeeded in 1996 when we stopped making it a political issue, and devoted our selves to passing meaningful legislation.

I have no illusions about what is going to happen today. However, I am disappointed that this Congress has chosen to take an enormous step backwards, prioritizing politics over pragmatism on an issue on which we have allowed good principles to rule in the past. I know that there are good people on both sides of the aisle, with good values, who have seen reforms we created improve the lives of people back home. To those in this Congress with whom I worked in 1996, let us not walk away from that we have accomplished. We have a mutual obligation not to let bad politics undo our good work.

I am confident that there will be no shortage of politics and partisan fights this session—about their tax cut, the deficit, Medicare reform, prescription drugs. To give up on proven success on welfare reform to engage in another unnecessary partisan fight is wrong.

Welfare reform is about demanding responsibility, encouraging work, and making work pay. Over the past six years, we as a nation—and millions of individuals—have benefited from our willingness to move beyond the old politics. This legislation represents a return to the failed politics and policies of the past. It is not compassionate nor is it conservative. It does a disservice to millions of families who have moved from welfare to work, and to the millions still struggling to do so. And it does wrong by our value as Americans.

HONORING RENT-ALL CENTER,
THE MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE SMALL BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Rent-All Center which was named the 2002 Small Business of the Year by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Located in the heart of the 11th District of Virginia, the Rent-All Center was opened by Freeman and Lois Jones in 1970. It was created to serve the Mt. Vernon community as a source for home improvement and light contracting equipment. Today, the company has grown from a local tool rental shop into a full service party rental company, servicing the entire metro Washington, DC, area.

The Rent-All Center can best be described as a family-operated business. While currently managed by Douglas Jones and Judith Beyer, the children of Freeman and Lois Jones, on any given day three generations of family members can be found working there.

In addition to its outstanding business ethic, the Rent-All Center has distinguished itself through its commitment to serving the local community through participation in numerous community organizations, such as the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. Rent-All Center also supports youth sports, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Woodlawn Little League.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Douglas Jones, Judith Beyer, and all those associated with the Rent-All Center for their many achievements, and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF
THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES
OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE
SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart, joining with the rest of the Nation in sorrow for the loss of the *Columbia* Shuttle and its seven heroic crew members. This tragedy, felt so deeply by all Americans, holds particular poignancy throughout my district. Both Payload Commander Michael Anderson and Pilot William McCool leave friends and family behind in New York's North Country.

Michael Anderson was born along the Canadian border in Plattsburgh, NY, in 1959, as his father served at the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base. Less than 40 years later he would return as an Air Force officer himself, working to the rank of lieutenant colonel before joining the NASA astronaut program in 1995. Today, many men and women in Plattsburgh remember Michael fondly. Ricky Jenkins, a 71-year-old Vietnam War veteran who worked with Michael at the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base, said in the local newspaper soon after the shuttle's loss "I was so very proud of him for doing what he was doing. He was a role model . . . I will never forget Michael." Hours after President Bush helped the astronauts' families celebrate their loved ones at a national service in Houston several weeks ago, the Plattsburgh community celebrated Michael's life in particular with their own candlelight vigil. A youth choir, Boy Scouts honor guard and presentation by Gov. George Pataki marked the celebration. Plattsburgh Mayor Dan Stewart spoke for the community earlier in the day. I share their sentiments here: "This is our opportunity as the birthplace of a national hero to send our condolences. It's for them to know we are with heavy hearts in Plattsburgh."

Less than 200 miles west of Plattsburgh, at the Army's Fort Drum base in Watertown, Warrant Officer Shawn McCool grieves for his brother, *Columbia* Pilot William McCool. Shawn McCool said his brother was one of his

favorite people in the world, one of his greatest heroes. To the McCool family, and the families of all the astronauts we lost, I pledge that their loved ones' deaths are not in vain. Their enthusiasm and passion to explore the skies beyond us in the interest of mankind will always hold our deepest gratitude. And the space program their husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters died for will live on in their honor.

As we begin to understand the circumstances surrounding *Columbia's* loss that Saturday morning over Texas, we must remember what NASA embodies. It was founded in 1958 to explore a new frontier, discover new heights and wonders in science. It is responsible for cutting-edge aeronautics research in a aerodynamics, wind shear, wind tunnels, flight testing and computer simulations. It has performed invaluable research on ways to dampen the effect of shock waves on transonic aircraft. It has also launched a number of significant scientific probes that have explored the moon, the planets and other areas of our solar system. NASA has been responsible for the Hubble Space Telescope and other revolutionary space science spacecraft that enabled scientists to make a number of significant astronomical discoveries in our universe.

I truly believe the lives the men and women of *Columbia* led, like the lives of those astronauts who went before them, exemplify the commitment that lies behind our nation's space program. In an e-mail transmission hours before the *Columbia* crew attempted to return home, Michael Anderson illustrated their passion with these words: "It's kind of with mixed emotions that we get ready to come home. But we have enough fond memories to last us a lifetime."

As the House Science Committee, led by my colleague and New York neighbor, SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, initiates its investigation, Congress pledges to focus on which policies may have contributed to this tragedy. We owe nothing less to those we now mourn, Michael Anderson, William McCool, Rick Husband, Laurel Clark, Kalphana Chawla, David Brown, and Illan Ramon.

HONORING ROSA AND JACK
KELLEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosa and Jack Kelley's contributions to the African American Historical and Cultural Museum of California's San Joaquin Valley. On Saturday, February 15, the retirement of Jack Kelley, the memory of his wife Rosa, and the beginning of the Kelley Endowment Fund for the African American Museum was celebrated in Fresno, California.

Jack Kelley has been an active member in the community throughout his life. Mr. Kelley served his country bravely in World War II. Jack continued his brave and honorable service to America as one of the first African American policemen for the Fresno Police Department, and later as the first African American to be promoted to Sergeant within the Department. Showing his range of diversity,